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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the statement by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia dated 16 February 1994, concerning the unilateral measures that the Republic of Greece undertook against the Republic of Macedonia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council, in connection with resolution 845 (1993) of the Council.

(Signed) Denko MALESKI
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

Annex

Statement

With regard to the decision of the Government of the Republic of Greece of 16 February 1994, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia issued the following:

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia considers that the recent decision of the Government of the Republic of Greece to stop the work of the Consulate General of the Republic of Greece in Skopje and to cease the transportation of goods from and to Skopje from Salonika Port actually represents imposition of an embargo against our country and is an act violating the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, CSCE documents and international law. This act of the Greek side does not respect the conclusion of the Presidency of the European Council, Edinburgh, 11-12 December 1993, which underlines the importance of the regular supply of oil to our country. Such unilateral and unacceptable measures of the Greek Government especially disturb us because they are contradictory to the United Nations Security Council resolution which urges Macedonia and Greece, in the framework of the United Nations, to settle the differences through negotiations and in that way contribute to strengthening peace and stability in the region.

The Republic of Macedonia has had and still has a peaceful position regarding every event in the territory of former Yugoslavia, it is not involved in the war and did everything in its power to build a democratic society and market economy, as well as to regulate inter-ethnic relations through dialogue and tolerance. In the dispute with Greece it has manifested the highest flexibility and intention to solve unsettled issues in good faith. The entire world is aware of this attitude of Macedonia. Macedonia has succeeded in preserving peace and stability in the country thus becoming a factor of peace and stability in the region.

Hence the astonishing fact is that at the same time when the international community makes enormous efforts aimed at peaceful and negotiable settlement of the most complex problems, including the cessation of the war in Bosnia, the Republic of Greece, Member of the United Nations, CSCE, NATO, Council of Europe and currently holding the Presidency of the European Union, takes such measures against our independent and peaceful country. The Greek Government intends to use them for exerting economic, political and other kinds of pressure on our country, taking advantage of our position of a land-locked country.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia wishes to emphasize that this causes immense damage to the long-lasting interests of the two countries and peoples, as well as to the future of mutual relations and cooperation for which the Greek side is responsible. On the other hand, Macedonia remains firmly committed to friendly relations with all neighbours, including its southern neighbour, and is prepared to continue the Macedonian-Greek dialogue.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia will with great attention consider all likely consequences of the Greek blockade which was by no means caused by the Macedonian side and, in that respect, it will take necessary measures and activities at the international level.

Skopje, 16 February 1994

Government of the Republic
of Macedonia